

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-16 and 19-25 are presently active in this case. Claims 17-18 have been previously canceled without prejudice. Claims 1, 8, 9, and 20 are amended in this Amendment and new Claim 25 has been added dependent on Claim 1. In addition, certain minor amendments have been made to the specification.

The amendments to Claims 1, 8, 9, and 20 and newly added Claim 25 find non-limiting support in Applicants' specification as originally filed, for example, in the disclosure corresponding with Figure 5. The amendments to the specification make minor corrections to typographical errors. Therefore, the amendments to the claims and specification are not believed to raise a question of new matter.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1-5, 7-10, 13, 19, and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 7,096,406 to Kanazawa et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,263,399 to Hwang, Claims 6 and 12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as unpatentable over Kanazawa in view of Hwang in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,339,546 to Katayama et al. and Claims 11, 14-16, and 21-24 were objected to as dependent upon a rejected base claim but were indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the indication of allowable subject matter in Claims 11, 14-16, and 21-24. However, Claims 11, 14-16, and 21-24 are presently maintained in dependent form because Applicants believe that Claim 1 as currently amended includes allowable subject matter as discussed below.

Claim 1 as now amended includes the recitations that "... a write enable signal indicating that data is being written to the memory. . ." and "... the data path circuit outputs

the write data to the memory in synchronization with a first clock signal **generated from the write enable signal . . .**”. It is respectfully submitted that this recitation in the claims is neither disclosed in nor obviated by either Kanazawa or Hwang.

Kanazawa simply discloses a commonly used memory system including a host 1, memory controller 2, and a cell memory 3. The memory system which has memory cells comprises the memory controller 2. The ECC control apparatus of the present invention corresponds generally to the ECC circuit of Kanazawa. Kanazawa includes an ECC circuit 4 as does the present invention. Although Kanazawa includes a memory controller 2 and a cell memory 3, the ECC circuit 4 of Kanazawa is not arranged so as to divide a bus. Reference numerals 5 and 6 of Kanazawa each indicate a known prior art bus line.

The prior art of record, including Kanazawa and Hwang, does not disclose or obviate the recitation in Claim 1 of a clock signal generated from the write enable signal. It is respectfully submitted that the statements in the Office Action that Kanazawa discloses a first clock signal generated from a write enable signal and referring to column 3, lines 33-35 and column 10, lines 65-67 and column 12, lines 44-49 are in error. Each of these citations to the Kanazawa specification merely refers to a system-based clock. For example, column 12, lines 44-49, merely refers to an internal clock CLK in synchronization with the system clock CLK. This disclosure in Kanazawa is similar to the clock generating mode referred to in Applicants’ specification on page 10, line 26 as the ordinary clock mode. There is no disclosure in Kanazawa of a substituted write/read clock mode as mentioned in the specification by way of example or as recited in Applicants’ Claim 1, lines 14-15, that is, “... a first clock signal generated from the write enable signal ...”.

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Kanazawa taken together with Hwang. Since Claims 2-16 and 19-24 are dependent directly or indirectly from Claim 1 substantially the same arguments set forth

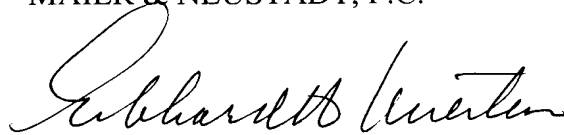
above also apply to these claims. Therefore, presently active Claims 1-16 and 19-25 are believed to be allowable.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, it is believed that the outstanding rejection is overcome and the application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned representative at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Eckhard H. Kuesters
Attorney of Record
Registration No. 28,870

Customer Number
22850

Tel: (703) 413-3000
Fax: (703) 413-2220
(OSMMN 08/07)

Michael L. Gellner
Registration No. 27,256